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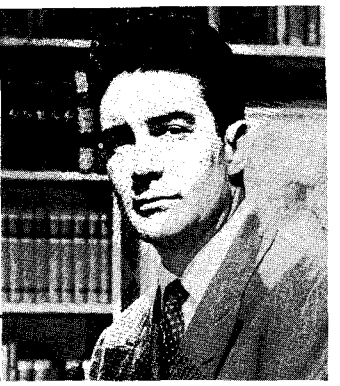

DAN SMOOT

REPEAL THE TAX AND STOP THE PLUNDER

A current, growing rebellion against the federal income tax system reflects something deeper than mere resentment against paying taxes. A deepening mood of despair, which could become rage, is settling upon Americans who know and care — and who watch helplessly while Washington officialdom plunders the people to finance programs that are destroying the great Republic.

President Kennedy's tax and budget proposals for fiscal year 1964 evoked sharp criticism in Congress, even among liberal Democrats who admire the President.[1] Conservatives bluntly called the proposals a plan for disaster.

On March 4, 1963, United States Representative Frank J. Becker (Republican, New York) made a speech in the House, condemning the President's budget and tax proposals as "unprincipled" and "immoral." He was challenged by United States Representative Byron G. Rogers (Democrat, Colorado) to specify what to cut out of the President's budget. Mr. Becker said:

"Oh, I would cut out a lot of foreign aid. I would cut out a lot of agriculture. I would cut out this $5 billion for federal aid to education. I would cut out a lot of things the people do not want and which they could get along better without."

Rogers asked whether Becker would eliminate subsidies to airlines. Becker dodged the question; and the debate sank into a meaningless exchange about Eisenhower spending versus Kennedy spending.

United States Representative James A. Haley (Democrat, Florida) suggested:

"You can cut the budget which has been submitted to this Congress by 20 percent, and you will not interrupt any essential function of government, if we will get the government out of the people's hair and let them get back to doing the things that made this country a great nation . . . and we will not have the Congress messing into these things about which it does not know anything. The people will take care of them."[2]

Thus encouraged, Representative Becker said:

"If we would . . . get out of local affairs such as urban affairs and this mass transportation business, and let the localities do it, we would cut our Federal spending by

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$10 billion. . . . There are billions — $10, $15, $20 billion by which this budget can be cut."[3]

United States Representative Roman C. Pucinski (Democrat, Illinois) challenged Becker to specify where he would cut 20 billion dollars from the budget.[3]

Again, the debate sank to a partisan discussion on the respective merits of Republicans and Democrats.

United States Representative M. G. Snyder (Republican, Kentucky) elevated the controversy by listing typical expenditures which have appeared in federal budgets and which, he suggested, the people could do without. Mr. Snyder mentioned projects conducted by the National Institutes of Health, with tax money appropriated by Congress, such as:

"Studies of Silent Thinking," which cost $25,565;

"Behavior and physiological concomitants of dreaming," $20,700;

"The social role of aging wild ungulate," $8,205;

"The ontogeny of English phrase structure," $2,100;

"A stereotactic atlas of the beagle brain," $9,775;

"Emergent leadership among the New Guinea Tolai," $1,251;

"A suicidal referral demonstration," $100,215;

"Longitudinal growth studies on anomalies of the head," $23,712;

"Appointment breaking in a pediatric clinic," $18,000;

"Initiation and support of a colony of baboons," $61,985.

Mr. Snyder listed enough such projects to total 656 thousand, 429 dollars.

He also mentioned a grant of 1 million, 250 thousand dollars of tax money for a six-year study of the affectional relationship of an infant monkey and its mother. He told about a National Science Foundation grant of 78 thousand dollars for a study of turtles; of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration contract for 80 thousand, 700 dollars to finance research on dolphin talk; of a Department of Agriculture safari of two and a half years into the Kingdom of Nepal, in search of ornamental plants; of the Peace Corps spending one million dollars to finance some Peace Corps men making an evaluation of other Peace Corps men.

Representative Snyder told Congress that negro men in Kenya, Africa, are using American foreign aid money to buy more wives for themselves.[4]

Everything Mr. Snyder listed, however, would not total 1 billion dollars. The President recommended expenditures, for the 1964 fiscal year, totaling 98 billion, 800 million, estimating revenues at 86 billion, 900 million, leaving an estimated deficit of 11 billion, 900 million.

Where *could* we make significant reductions in that budget without harming the country?

National Defense

For the 1964 fiscal year, the President recommended expenditures for National Defense totaling 55 billion, 433 million dollars. How can this "irreducible" item be reduced?

No one knows what is in the federal budget, because no one ever really reads it. The budget is compiled by thousands of employees, representing hundreds of agencies. Each agency requests the maximum it would like to spend, and generally adds an across-the-board percentage increase to that — anticipating across-the-board reduction by Congress.

This practice enables Representatives and Senators to vote for "drastic reductions" in the budget (thus making for themselves a record as careful guardians of public money). The wide publicity about how Congress "slashed" the budget gives the public a comfortable feeling that Congress is still in control, guaranteeing frugal use of tax revenues. And the bureaucrats get all they expected anyway.

It sounds like a wicked system; but, actually, no other system is possible, in the handling of a budget that hovers around 100 billion dol-

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lars a year and provides for everything imaginable in every corner of the earth—from studying monkeys in Africa to shooting at the moon from Florida.

The total budget looks like the telephone directory of a major American city. It is over a thousand large-pages long (in fine print) and weighs upward of five pounds. No one does (or could) read and comprehend the whole thing.

Bureaucrats who compile the budget are familiar with their particular section. They spend a whole year on charts, figures, and statements, designed to convince congressional committees that all mankind would suffer from any reduction in their requests.

The most that any member of Congress can do, in approving appropriations to implement the budget, is to select some particular program of special interest to him. For the rest, he must guess, take budget requests at face value, or trade with other members of Congress who have other special interests: *you vote with me on foreign aid, and I'll vote with you on the farm program;* and so on.

This explanation of the obvious about the budget system is by way of saying that no one person (not even in the Defense Department and the Budget Bureau) knows what is buried in the President's request of 55 billion, 433 million dollars for National Defense. All we know for sure is that any member of Congress who votes to reduce the President's request for *National Defense* can be branded by administration propaganda as a demagogue who endangers the security of his nation.

In searching for ways to reduce defense expenditures, therefore, we cannot examine every item in the budget; but we can use the inexorable logic of facts.

In March, 1950, General Omar Bradley (then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) said to a Senate committee:

"Yes, thirteen billion dollars a year is sufficient to provide for the security of the United States. If I recommended as much as thirty billion a year for the Armed Forces, I ought to be dismissed as Chief of Staff."[5]

If 13 billion dollars for national defense was enough in 1950, why is 55 billion, 433 million necessary now? Has our enemy (international communism) gained so much strength that it now costs more than four times as much to defend the country as it cost 13 years ago? During those 13 years, we have given away in foreign aid approximately 105 billion dollars.[6]

The argument for foreign aid undergoes periodic alterations.[7] Yet, the unrelenting refrain in all arguments for American foreign aid is that it is vital to the *defense* of the United States, because (in one way or another) it weakens international communism.

Since 1950, we have "strengthened" our "national defense" and "weakened" communism by giving away 105 billion dollars in foreign aid; yet, the President now claims that defense costs more than four times as much as before that 105 billion was given away.

Our foreign aid programs have done great damage to our national defense — and should be stopped abruptly.

The President's 55 billion, 433 million dollar defense budget is not really for *national* defense; it is for defense of the entire world outside the communist empire (the so-called "free world"). Our government has no constitutional authority to defend the world. Moreover, the quadrupling of our defense budget in 13 years indicates a fundamental fallacy.

In spending for "free world" defenses we actually weaken those defenses, because we thus encourage other nations to neglect their own defense and depend on us — and we, of course, cannot finance adequate defense for the whole "free world."

The only *military* threat which the United States need fear is aggressive action with super weapons from some communist nation. We have not adequately prepared ourselves against this danger.

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We cannot defend the world for 13 billion dollars a year; but, despite inflation of our money since 1950, we could defend our homeland for that much — which Omar Bradley specified in 1950 as adequate for defense (which, even then, included defense of most of the world).

We should, therefore, reduce the President's National Defense budget to no more than 13 billion — a reduction of 42 billion, 433 million.

If the President should then fail to spend our tax money on real defense of the American nation, he should be impeached and removed from office.

Veterans

Another budget item considered "irreducible" is the 5 billion, 484 million dollars which the President requested for "Veterans Benefits and Services."

Our government has an obligation to dependent families of persons killed in the service of the country, and to those whose injuries incapacitated them for productive lives. But does the government have an obligation to every dependent of every man who ever got into the armed forces or who served overseas in time of war? Everyone's life is interrupted and disturbed in time of war. Must we, therefore, put the whole nation on free medical care and pensions?

We are headed toward a disastrous condition prevalent in ancient Rome during the latter days of its decline: when soldiers and veterans became such powerful groups that they could empty the public treasury with their demands for bonuses and benefits. Today, there are so many "non-service" connected disability veterans making demands on veterans hospitals that many war-service veterans who deserve hospitalization say they cannot get it. We have given veterans benefits to thousands of boys in college who were never in battle — or even in the armed forces during time of war. We have provided dependents' medical care for thousands of families of ex-soldiers whose service does not justify such benefits.

We could decrease the President's request for Veterans Benefits by at least 3 billion dollars, while increasing benefits for the genuinely deserving — if we would stop benefits to millions of people now receiving what they should not get.

Science and Research

Another "irreducible" item in the President's budget is 4 billion, 200 million dollars for "Space Research and Technology." Congress and the public do not know what is involved here, and cannot find out.

Government expenditures for "research" and "science" are scattered throughout the budget. Wherever found, they represent great danger to the freedom and welfare of our nation.

In 1946, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Office of Naval Research were established. In 1950, the National Science Foundation was created, as the first "general purpose" federal science agency. In 1952, the Army set up a Chief of Research and Development. The Air Force has a Deputy Chief of Staff for Development. President Eisenhower created the office of Special Assistant for Science. He also formed a Science Advisory Committee. In 1959, a Federal Council on Science and Technology was organized.

By June 30, 1961, the federal government was financing, and controlling, 60 per cent of all basic scientific research and development in the United States.[8]

Commenting on this situation, Basil O'Connor, President of The National Foundation (a privately endowed organization), in a speech to an international symposium of medical scientists at La Jolla, California, on January 16, 1963, said:

"Government-supported science has become a fiscal giant that surpasses even our agricul-

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tural price supports. This has been accompanied by a relative decline in the contributions from other, private sources. . . .

"Scientists find themselves harassed and frustrated by developments which actually inhibit scientific progress. This has led many scientists to see real dangers in the fact that they can no longer rely for support on a variety of private institutions, and must turn more and more to the dominant federal agencies. For science has traditionally maintained its independence by relying on diverse sources of support. But current trends clearly point to heavier and heavier dependence on one source: the Federal Government. . . .

"The Federal Government's role in medical research and training has grown prodigiously in recent years. . . . In 1947, the Federal Government paid for about one-third of the nation's medical research. Today, it pays for one-half; tomorrow, it will pay for two-thirds, if current trends continue.

"The National Institutes of Health are among the few federal agencies which regularly receive *more* than the Administration has asked for on their behalf from Congress.

"Since 1953, Congressional appropriations for NIH have averaged about 25 percent above Administration requests, and 33 percent above the previous year's figure. For fiscal 1962, for example, President Kennedy asked for 583 million dollars for NIH, which was 34 million dollars more than the previous year's appropriation. The House upped this to 641 million dollars, the Senate topped that with 835 million dollars, and the compromise finally adopted was 738 million dollars. . . .

"The result of this 'force-feeding' . . . is that the National Institutes of Health receive more money for medical research than can be used soundly. I do not believe that the colleges and universities can profitably spend the amounts being awarded to them by NIH in the life sciences. . . .

"Indeed . . . the National Institutes of Health have more than once had to 'beat the bushes' to find researchers willing to accept huge amounts, so that the money would not revert to general funds at the end of the fiscal year. . . .

"In . . . American science in general. . . . the plethora of funds actually constitutes a positive threat to excellence. . . . In the past . . . both thought and money were hard to come by. Now money is plentiful, but thought is still scarce. The result is a tendency to *spend* rather than think. . . .

"As a result of massive research grants, the universities are becoming financially dependent on the Federal Government. . . . I think you would be hard put to find a first-rate graduate department of physics or chemistry in our entire system of higher education which could maintain its present standing, personnel, facilities, and even student body, without federal income and federal stipends.

"What university could maintain its freedom of action if the Federal Government threatened to withdraw support of such magnitude? Can the representatives of such an institution be expected to take a detached view of the advisability of federal support of research?"(9)

Thus, as Mr. O'Connor indicates in that last sentence, too much federal money encourages a bad situation to perpetuate itself.

Mr. O'Connor's anxiety about federal domination of scientific research is summed up in these words:

"The danger here is more serious than a waste of money. . . . I can see the gradual extension of political control over research. There are signs of this already. . . .

"I dread the prospect of reaching a point when the vast majority of scientists will be indebted to the Federal Government for their education and for their opportunities for research, when our universities will be so dependent on government subvention that they will have lost their autonomy, and when the forced-feeding of excessive research funds will have seriously weakened the scientific professions by encouraging waste . . . and a misguided emphasis on quantity instead of quality."

Nonetheless, Mr. O'Connor says:

"The problems I have described cannot be solved by a rollback of federal support of scientific research — that is out of the question."

That *is* the question. Whereas Mr. O'Connor recommends nothing more than improved handling of federal subsidies to science and research, I recommend cutting them out: they pose a grim threat to our free society.

A 13 billion dollar national defense budget would provide all funds needed for *national defense* research.

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Total Expenditure Reductions

Total expenditures in the President's budget are lumped together as 13 separate items, such as "National Defense," "Natural Resources," "Commerce and Transportation," "General Government," and so on. The names given these items, and the breakdowns shown, do not disclose many unconstitutional subsidy programs that are, doubtless, included.

A review of this sketchy budget presentation discloses, however, the following amounts which could be deducted from the President's recommended expenditures (it being probable that many other deductions could be made):

National Defense	**$42,433,000,000.00**
Veterans Benefits	**3,000,000,000.00**
Space Research and Technology	**4,200,000,000.00**
Military Assistance — foreign aid	**1,450,000,000.00**
Economic Assistance — foreign aid	**2,117,000,000.00**
Foreign information and exchange	**237,000,000.00**
Farm subsidies, and related programs	**5,281,000,000.00**
Land & Water resources	**1,750,000,000.00**
Mineral resources	**107,000,000.00**
Aviation subsidy	**885,000,000.00**
Water Transportation subsidy	**677,000,000.00**
Advancement of business	**617,000,000.00**
Area redevelopment	**521,000,000.00**
Regulation of Business	**94,000,000.00**
Housing & Community Development	**276,000,000.00**
Health, Labor & Welfare	**5,597,000,000.00**
Education	**1,537,000,000.00**
TOTAL	**$70,779,000,000.00**

Cutting 70 billion, 779 million dollars from the President's proposed Administrative Budget of 98 billion, 800 million would leave a budget of 28 billion, 021 million dollars — which could be further reduced if all remaining unconstitutional, and harmful, spending were cut out. It would, moreover, be automatically reduced by elimination of all programs I have suggested eliminating, because much of the overhead involved in running those programs is buried in the "General Government" item of the budget, and elsewhere.

But, in order to deal with round figures, let us assume a peacetime budget, for fiscal 1964, of 30 billion dollars (which is more than three times as large as the largest peacetime budget of Franklin D. Roosevelt).[10] A thirty billion dollar budget for next year would be more than adequate to finance all constitutional functions of the Federal Government — and could provide better government and better national defense than Kennedy's 98.8 billion dollar budget would provide.

Tax Reductions

President Kennedy originally estimated budgeted receipts of the federal government for the present fiscal year (ending June 30, 1963) at, roughly, 93 billion dollars, to come from the following sources.

personal income taxes — 49 billion, 300 million dollars;

corporation income taxes — 26 billion, 600 million;

federal sales taxes — 10 billion;

federal gift and death taxes — 2 billion, 300 million;

customs payments on foreign goods — 1 billion, 300 million;

miscellaneous revenues — 4 billion, 200 million.[11]

If, in the 1964 fiscal year, we had 93 billion dollars of revenue, and a thirty billion dollar budget, we would have a 63 billion dollar surplus.

So, we should reduce taxes, from present rates, by 60 billion dollars — leaving a surplus of 3 billion dollars in fiscal 1964 to be applied on the national debt.

The President and his AFL-CIO economists say that a tax reduction of 10 billion dollars would increase national production by at least 20 billion dollars.[12] A tax reduction of 60 billion should, then, increase national production by at least 120 billion dollars. How about *that,* for stimulating our economy?

Where should the 60 billion dollar tax reduction be made?

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We should abolish all federal income tax on corporations because this is a hidden tax on the total population — the most vicious kind of taxation. A portion of the cost of corporation taxes *must* be passed on to customers in the sales price of products. Hence, corporation taxes place the heaviest burden on low income people — who do most of the consumer buying and can least afford the tax-padded prices.

Until, and unless, we adopt an equitable federal sales tax, we should abolish all budgeted federal sales taxes (that is, "excise" taxes on telephone bills, airplane tickets, automobiles, and so on). Present federal sales taxes are discriminatory — levied on some commodities and services, not on others.[13]

We should abolish federal gift and death taxes, and reduce federal tax on personal incomes by 21 billion, 100 million dollars (a reduction of more than 40% from present rates).

Finally, Congress should repeal the withholding law, which (in violation of the Constitution) compels employers to work for nothing, collecting and remitting income taxes imposed on employees. The withholding law shifts resentment of taxes away from government and on to employers, and it conceals from the people the burden of taxation.[13]

Abolish The Whole System

A 40% reduction in personal income tax rates, combined with abolition of federal sales taxes and of all federal income tax on corporations, would stimulate the American economy to fabulous production. By the end of 1964, individuals (even with a 40% reduction in tax rates) would probably be paying more federal income taxes than now, because of increased incomes. Then, without a withholding system to conceal their tax burden, the people would demand outright repeal of the Sixteenth (Income Tax) Amendment.

Imagine how our economy would soar if, instead of *reducing* personal income taxes 40%, we eliminated them altogether. Remem-

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ber that we had better national defense during the 124 years before we had a federal income tax system than we have ever had since. Customs duties and a small federal excise tax equitably distributed (on all commodities and services alike) would produce all revenue needed to run the government, and pay off the national debt.[13]

The income tax system is too rotten, too corrupt, too inequitable ever to be reformed. It must be abolished.

The present Congress will not adopt the kind of tax and budget program I recommend; but if the public could persuade Congress to do nothing more than repeal the withholding law, an irresistible demand for repeal of the Income Tax Amendment would soon follow. The people would not carry the crushing burden, if they realized what they are paying — and understood how their tax money is being used for purposes harmful to their country.

In 1962, United States Representative Bruce Alger (Republican, Texas) introduced a Bill to repeal the withholding law.[13] The Bill died with the 87th Congress, because it did not receive enough public support. Mr. Alger reintroduced the Bill, as HR 739, in the present session. It deserves massive public support. We will never effect repeal of the Income Tax Amendment until we have first aroused and educated the total population, by repealing the withholding law.

What Can I Do?

You can do your best to spread the word, until there are *enough* concerned Americans to elect the kind of Congress we need. Specifically, you can help create public and congressional support for Bruce Alger's Bill (HR 739) to repeal the withholding law.

FOOTNOTES

(1) "Khrushchev is Waiting," remarks of U. S. Representative Clarence Cannon (Democrat, Missouri), published in this *Report*, March 4, 1963, pp. 70 ff.
(2) *Congressional Record*, March 4, 1963, p. 3219
(3) *Congressional Record*, March 4, 1963, pp. 3220, 3221
(4) Remarks of U. S. Representative M. G. Snyder (Republican, Kentucky), *Congressional Record*, March 4, 1963, pp. 3237 ff.
(5) *The People's Pottage*, by Garet Garrett, The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1953, p. 143
(6) Estimated from information in Extension of Remarks by U. S. Representative Alvin E. O'Konski (Republican, Wisconsin), *Congressional Record*, August 6, 1962, pp. A5998 ff.; and, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957*, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1957, pp. 719, 725
(7) "Post War Years," this *Report*, March 4, 1963, p. 66
(8) *Review of Data on Research and Development*, National Science Foundation, August, 1960; and *Investing In Scientific Progress, 1961-1970*, National Science Foundation, 1961
(9) *Science and Government; the Perilous Partnership*, by Basil O'Connor, January, 1963, distributed by The National Foundation, 800 Second Avenue, New York 17, New York
(10) *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957*, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1957, p. 711
(11) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, January 19, 1962, pp. 74 ff.
(12) "Labor Union Logic," this *Report*, March 18, 1963, pp. 81 ff.
(13) "Withholding Tax," a four-part series in this *Report*, April 30, 1962, to May 21, 1962; also "Khrushchev is Waiting," remarks of U. S. Representative Clarence Cannon (Democrat, Missouri), published in this *Report*, March 4, 1963, p. 72

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Dan Smoot was born in Missouri. Reared in Texas, he attended SMU in Dallas, taking BA and MA degrees from that university in 1938 and 1940.

In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of American Civilization.

In 1942, he took leave of absence from Harvard in order to join the FBI. At the close of the war, he stayed in the FBI, rather than return to Harvard.

He worked as an FBI Agent in all parts of the nation, handling all kinds of assignments. But for three and a half years, he worked exclusively on communist investigations in the industrial midwest. For two years following that, he was on FBI headquarters staff in Washington, as an Administrative Assistant to J. Edgar Hoover.

After nine and a half years in the FBI, Smoot resigned to help start the Facts Forum movement in Dallas. As the radio and television commentator for Facts Forum, Smoot, for almost four years spoke to a national audience giving both sides of great controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his own independent program, in order to give only one side — the side that uses fundamental American principles as a yardstick for measuring all important issues.

If you believe that Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for those who want to think and talk and write on the side of freedom, you can help immensely by subscribing, and encouraging others to subscribe, to *The Dan Smoot Report.*

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